tween the demoralized elements of the garrison in the capital and the army at the front.

On June 16 the first All-Russian Congress of the Soviets of Workers and Soldiers opened with great solemnity in the Naval School. Its sessions lasted three weeks. The Congress of Peasant Deputies was meeting in Petrograd at the same time. Thus, the main democratic forces of the nation were represented in the capital. The Congress of Workers and Soldiers had some nine hundred voting members, with a majority of about six hundred and fifty to seven hundred supporting the policy of the Executive Committee. In the Peasants' Congress, our supporters outnumbered the left-wing opposition ten to one. But the minority was bracing itself for a showdown. The provincial delegates were unable to grasp the situation. Most of them had had some trouble with their Bolsheviks at home and managed them fairly well; what was going on in Petrograd seemed to them a squabble among local leaders. Both Congresses were still in session when the Communists called their forces into the streets, using the Anarchists as their shock troops.

ANARCHISTS

The Anarchists had appeared in the Viborg district of the capital in the early days of the revolution. Some of them, as political offenders, had been liberated from imprisonment and had installed themselves in an old vacant house on Viborg Prospect. The house was surrounded by a park and belonged to the former Tsarist minister, Durnovo. The local police did not object to having homeless people use it, and an apparently harmless Anarchist community developed on the Durnovo *dacha*.

Free-for-all meetings were held in the park but attracted little attention until the Anarchists decided to publish a newspaper. In search of printing facilities, they organized themselves into an armed commando and invaded the printing plant of a conservative newspaper. The printers fled from the premises, leaving the presses in the hands of the raiders. A crowd assembled around the plant, ready to break in and lynch the intruders. Somebody telephoned to our Congress. Representatives of the Congress rushed to the scene, forced their way into the besieged building, disarmed the Anarchists, and took them to the Naval School. The gang consisted mainly of young boys, bewildered and frightened by the unexpected outcome of their adventure. Since there was no evidence that any of them had actually threatened anybody with weapons, they were permitted to return to their *dacha* after a reprimand and warning.